

RECEIVED

ATTACHMENT 2  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2024 MAR -4 P 4: 51

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Christopher Schmuckal

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN's: 113-020-016, 113-020-018, 113-030-002, Case No.: 23EMP-00015  
113-030-008, 113-030-009, 113-030-010, 113-030-027

Location: Santa Maria River, West of Guadalupe and Highway 1

Project Title: Emergency Permit – Santa Maria River - Guadalupe

Project Applicant: Santa Barbara County Public Works Flood Control Division

**Project Description:** *The project proposes to remove vegetation and siltation debris near the center of the Santa Maria River footprint from State Route 1 towards the Pacific Ocean. The project is approximately 4 miles long, 3.2 miles of which is within the Coastal Zone boundary. Debris removal ranges from 200 to 330 feet in width and 4 to 9 feet in depth along the river. Suitable material that is removed from the river will be placed along the southern and northern margin of the river corridor outside of the ordinary high water mark to create an 8 to 10 foot berm to direct flows into the historic river pathway. The project includes the following components:*

- *The first 2.7 miles of the project from the Coastal Zone boundary towards the ocean is un-vegetated and debris removal will occur within an area 300 feet wide and up to 6 feet in depth.*
- *The western 0.5 miles of the project includes the removal of 7 acres of arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) riparian vegetation in order to restore the flow pathway. Willows will be cut off at the base to remove vegetation impeding waterflow, while also allowing future regrowth. The debris removal along this section will be 200 feet wide by up to 6 feet in depth and a berm will be created along the south side of the channel. All cut debris will be buried in the berm to allow it to regrow.*
- *The District is developing a habitat restoration plan in coordination with resource agencies, which will be implemented once the debris removal work is complete.*

*County Flood Control staff will implement all avoidance and minimization measures described in their October 16, 2023, letter (Attachment C). These measures include but are not limited to the following:*

- *District biologists will monitor the project area during equipment work and perform pre-project surveys of vegetation/habitat where special status species may have the potential to occur.*
- *Special-status plant species, if detected, will be clearly marked and excluded from the work area prior to equipment work.*
- *District biologists will survey for and relocate any special status wildlife during operations.*
- *District biologists will provide an environmental training session for contractors and staff working onsite.*
- *Work will be performed outside of the nesting bird season*
- *No work will occur during rain events or any forecasted river flow events*
- *No herbicide will be used during any stage of project operations.*

*Access to the project site will be taken off of Highway 1 and West Main Street. The project is located along the Santa Maria River, within Flood Control easement area, in the Fifth Supervisorial District on Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 113-030-010, 113-030-009, 113-030-008, 113-030-027, 113-030-003, 113-030-002, 113-020-016, 113-020-019, 113-020-018.*

*The project is an emergency because, following the significant storms from winter of 2023, sediment build-up caused the Santa Maria River to re-align and erode beyond the southern bank, along a 5-mile stretch between State Route 1 and the Pacific Ocean. The deviated flowing water pathway resulted in flooding and damage to public facilities, including the City of Guadalupe's wastewater treatment plant, West Main Street, and the road used by the public to access the coast at Guadalupe Dune County Park. In addition, private structures in the area, including homes, are under imminent threat of flooding and property damage with the forecasted El Nino winter season. The Governor of California declared a State of Emergency as a result of severe winter storms related to an atmospheric river event beginning on December 27, 2022. In addition, this project received emergency funding from the County Board of Supervisors in September 2023 to complete the work.*

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Santa Barbara County Planning & Development

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Santa Barbara County Public Works Flood Control Division

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Emergency Permit – Santa Maria River - Guadalupe, Case No. 23EMP-00015  
November 3, 2023  
Attachment C – 3

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: Section 15269 Emergency Projects**

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this situation because sediment build-up in the Santa Maria River caused by the significant storms from the winter of 2023, caused the river to re-align and erode beyond its southern bank along a 5-mile stretch between State Route 1 and the Pacific Ocean. The deviated river pathway resulted in flooding and damage to public facilities, including the City of Guadalupe’s wastewater treatment facility, and private neighborhoods. The forecasted El Nino for the upcoming winter season puts these structures under imminent threat of flooding and property damage. An immediate response is necessary to reduce the flood risk for these communities.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Chris Schmuckal

**Phone #:** 805-568-3510

**Department/Division Representative:**



**Date:** 11/3/2023

**Acceptance Date:** 11/3/2023

**Distribution:** Hearing Support Staff

**Date Filed by County Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_



one  
COUNTY  
one  
FUTURE

# 2024 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.			
A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.			
Contact Person	Christopher Schmuckal		Phone 805-568-3510
Lead Agency	County of Santa Barbara		Lead Agency Email cschmuckal@countyofsb.org
Project Title Emergency Permit, Santa Maria River Guadalupe			
Project Applicant	Email	Phone	
County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District	sshank@countyofsb.org	805-568-3443	
Project Applicant Address	City	State	Zip
130 East Victoria Street, Suite 200	Santa Barbara	CA	93101

### DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR) .....\$4,051.25
    - 2024 Filing Fee .....\$4,051.25
    - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) ..... \$0.00
    - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....\$2,916.75
    - 2024 Filing Fee .....\$2,916.75
    - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) ..... \$0.00
    - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00
- County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18) .....\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

### PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- Cash
  - Credit
  - Check # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Journal Entry # 0262085
- In person only In FIN send to 'COB CEQA' in CEO Dept

# Auditor Policy Regarding Confidential Information

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Image Type: Invoice

Document ID: 1723385

Document Type: 33

Document Nbr: 0262085



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print  Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 42 — 03/04/2024 — 054  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY County of Santa Barbara	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL cschmuckal@countyofsb.org	DATE 03/04/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Barbara		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE  
 Emergency Permit, Santa Maria River Guadalupe

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL sshank@countyofsb.org	PHONE NUMBER (805) 568-3443
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 130 East Victoria Street, Suite 200	CITY Santa Barbara	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93101

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:


<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Katherine Douglas, Deputy Clerk
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